

Table 2-4. Environmental Impacts of Alternatives

Environmental Resource	Existing Conditions	Agency Proposed Action	Single-Circuit Alternative			
Land Use (See Sections 3.1 and 4.1)	Mostly rangeland and timberland on Forest Service land. Private land includes agricultural land and residential/commercial land.	No to moderate impacts would occur on agricultural land depending on the amount of land temporarily or permanently taken out of production. Timber and rangeland would experience a low impact because the amount harvested would be such a small percent of the remaining amount available for harvest.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action. Slightly more land would permanently be taken out of production because of the single-circuit structures used instead of some double-circuit structures.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action east of Targhee Tap. Moderate impacts would occur at the switching station site because land would be permanently removed from agricultural production and grazing practices would be altered.	No impacts are expected. BPA would need to meet the City or County regulations for placing utilities in residential neighborhoods.	No impacts are expected.
Visuals and Recreation (See Sections 3.2, 3.3, 4.2 and 4.3)	The area's visual character and quality are recognized as an important resource at national, state, and local levels, and tourists from around the world come to see and enjoy nearby natural features. The ROW follows the general contours of the land with forested buffers and no long stretches along ridgetops. It also follows common routes for tourists and recreationists using the area.	Visual impacts would be low to high. High impacts would occur at Teton Pass and near Teton Substation. Recreation impacts would be low to moderate because of interference with construction activities. Roads that had been open to the public in the past may be gated and closed in the future limiting recreation access.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.			
Public Health and Safety (See Sections 3.4 and 4.4)	Electric and magnetic fields are found around any electrical wiring, appliances and equipment. The existing line and substations do not create loud noise. Hazardous and toxic materials are found in substation equipment and are used during construction and maintenance activities. Mostly mature forests surround the existing line creating a larger fire hazard.	Magnetic field levels near Teton Substation would decrease relative to all other alternatives. No new noise source is expected. Swan Valley Substation has an oil spill containment plan and Teton Substation will have one by summer 1997. A Fire Plan would be completed before construction to assure that fire hazards are kept to a minimum.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action. Magnetic field levels would decrease on the south side of the ROW near Teton Substation and increase on the north side relative to the No Action Alternative.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action east of Targhee Tap. Magnetic field levels would decrease on the south side of the ROW near Teton Substation and increase on the north side relative to the No Action Alternative.	Noise would increase at Jackson or Teton Substation but stay within Town of Jackson and Teton County standards. An oil spill containment plan will be in place at Teton Substation by summer 1997. Jackson Substation has oil spill containment. There would be no change in magnetic field levels.	Could lead to voltage collapse. Important services would be interrupted possibly causing lost revenues. Safety and security is compromised. There would be no change in magnetic field levels.
Soils, Geology, and Water Quality (See Sections 3.5, 3.6, and 4.5)	A diversity of landforms exist in the project area including broad level slopes, ridges, canyons, and mountain ranges. Mass-wasting is one of the most active erosion processes. Water quality is good to excellent.	Impacts range from none to high depending on amount of erosion and mass movement prone areas, soil compaction, slopes, clearing requirements, and success of erosion control measures controlling increased sedimentation and turbidity in streams.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.			
Floodplains and Wetlands (See Sections 3.7 and 4.6)	Floodplains and wetlands are found along low-gradient streams or in V-shaped drainages along narrow riparian zones. Wet meadows can also be found in the project area.	Improving fords and building bridges could impact floodplains and wetlands where abutments are placed. Impacts to wetlands from construction could be minimized with prudent placement of erosion control measures. Maintenance activities such as improving access roads could impact wetlands.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action.	Similar to the Agency Proposed Action east of Targhee Tap.	No impacts are expected.	No impacts are expected.